

How safe is your wastewater facility and collection system?

The security of wastewater utilities does warrant attention.

Natural disasters, potential chemical hazards for plant security, and/or malicious introduction of flammable or explosive materials into wastewater collection systems could cause significant damage to the wastewater infrastructure and surrounding environment. Impairment of wastewater treatment could introduce high levels of contaminants that adversely affects overall water quality and downstream drinking supplies.

- ◆ Are you aware of the economic and environmental impacts of such an event?
- ◆ Do you know what resources are available to your community?

- ◆ How secure is your chemical storage?
- ◆ How prepared is your community in the event of an emergency, act of nature, or terrorism?
- ◆ Does your plant have an Emergency Response Plan?
- ◆ How can you better assess your system's vulnerability?
- ◆ What steps can be taken to increase system security and level of preparedness?
- ◆ How can you work with your community to make the necessary improvements to your plant?

What happens if your wastewater plant is out of service?

The operations of the wastewater treatment system are essential to the health and well-being of the people of your community. What would happen if a natural or man-made disaster were to reduce or eliminate its ability to function? Without the capabilities of the wastewater treatment system the community could find itself facing major health and environmental problems with no readily available options to address them.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Vulnerability Assessment



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July 1, 2004

What can be done?

While there is no way to completely eliminate the possibility of service interruption, there are many things the community can do to prepare itself to deal with the problem should it occur.

The first step in any effort to prepare is assess the system's vulnerability and analyze what can be done to reduce the risk. The Office of Operator Training of the Department of Environmental Quality can assist you in conducting an assessment of your wastewater system vulnerability and developing appropriate emergency response plans.

Getting Started

Complete the information request form in the brochure and mail, fax or email it to the Department's Office of Operator Training at the address shown on the front of the brochure.

Costs

Department does not charge for this service. The wastewater treatment system may incur some increased costs associated with collection and evaluation of information required to complete the assessment.

Eligibility:

Any wastewater plant may apply for assistance to conduct a vulnerability assessment. Priority is given to publicly owned treatment plants with a design capacity of less than five million gallons per day (5 MGD) that were constructed with state or federal financial assistance.

Vulnerability assessment activities will not be undertaken without the expressed written approval of the system

What does the program address?

The program will assist the community in assessing potential threats to the continued operation of the wastewater treatment system, identifying potential actions that can be taken to reduce threats, and developing plans to respond quickly and effectively should the operation of the system be threatened.

Responsibilities

Program staff will provide assistance in identifying potential problem areas and mechanisms to address identified vulnerabilities but final decisions on prioritizing needs and corrective actions to be taken will be solely the responsibility of the facility management.

Information Confidentiality

All information resulting from the vulnerability assessment and any plans to address identified vulnerabilities will remain the property of the system owner. ***No vulnerability assessment data or emergency response plan information will be retained by the Office of Operator Training.***

On-site Activities

The program staff will assist the community to obtain and implement either the computerized Vulnerability Self Assessment Tool available from the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies (AMSA) or the "Protecting Your Community's Assets: A Guide for Small Wastewater Systems available from the National Environmental Services Center for Small Communities (NETC). Following completion of the vulnerability assessment, the program staff will assist the facility owner and operators in development of an emergency response plan.

Plant Name: _____

VD PES No: VA _____

Expiration Date: _____

Owner: _____

Responsible Official:

Title: _____

Mailing Address:

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) - ____ - _____

Chief Operator: _____

Telephone: (____) ____ - _____

Check each of the following that apply to this system:

- ☐ A publicly owned treatment works (POTW).
- ☐ Owned by a public service authority
- ☐ A state owned treatment system.
- ☐ Owned by a public school system
- ☐ A privately owned treatment system
- ☐ Plant is operated/managed by a private contractor

Management Verification:

I support this request for assistance with our efforts to assess the wastewater system vulnerability and develop an emergency response plan.

Signed: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____